

**PUBLIC FORUM ON CONVERSION AND ACQUISITION OF
CAREFIRST BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD
BY WELLPOINT HEALTH NETWORKS INC.**

WellPoint Health Networks Inc. has filed an application with the District of Columbia Department of Insurance and Securities Regulation seeking approval of the proposed acquisition of control of Group Hospitalization & Medical Services, Inc. and, as a necessary prerequisite thereto, the conversion of Group Hospitalization & Medical Services, Inc. (popularly known as "CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield") from a non-profit to a for profit company. The Insurance Commissioner will hold public forums to receive public comments on the application. The comments will be made part of the official record, and will be considered by the Commissioner in making his decision. The first two opportunities for public comments held as part of the hearing process are as follows:

Wednesday, May 22, 6-9 p.m. at One Judiciary Square, 441 4th Street, N.W.

Tuesday, May 28, 6-9 p.m. at One Judiciary Square, 441 4th Street, N.W.

Time limits on speakers may be imposed to accommodate all interested persons. Locations and times of additional public forums will be announced at a later date if additional public forums are necessary to accommodate additional speakers. Anyone who would like to make an oral presentation at either of the public forums is requested to register in advance by contacting Ms. Leslie Johnson, Hearing Officer of the Department, at (202) 442-7756 or by email at leslie.johnson@dc.gov. A sign language interpreter will be provided at all sites. Written comments on the application will be accepted in lieu of oral presentations. Written comments must be received by the Commissioner no later than May 31, 2002.

The Commissioner will hold a formal public hearing that will include presentations by WellPoint and CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield officials, the Department's experts, and other parties and interested participants. That hearing is tentatively scheduled for November 12, 2002. The time and place for that hearing will be published at a later date.

The Commissioner issued a Preliminary Order and a Proposed Case Management Order on April 5, 2002. The Preliminary Order sets forth the Department's jurisdiction over the matter, explains why it would be premature to hold the formal public hearing on WellPoint's application at this time, and directs WellPoint to file a draft amended and restated application on or before July 16, 2002 which shall remedy certain deficiencies in the application. The Proposed Case Management Order addresses the process that the Department proposes to use in its review of the application, and is open to public comment until May 15, 2002.

Written comments for the public forums or the Proposed Case Management Order should be directed to Mr. Dana G. Sheppard, Senior Counsel, District of Columbia Department of Insurance and Securities Regulation, 810 First Street NE, Suite 701, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Further information on the proposed acquisition and conversion proceeding is available on the Department of Insurance and Securities Regulation website, www.disr.washingtondc.gov or by writing Mr. Sheppard at the above address.